REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Lee for his careful review of this application. Reconsideration of the present application in light of the above-amendments to the claims and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the present communication, claims 7 and 30 have been amended; claims 17, 19 and 21-29 have been maintained in their original or previously presented form; and claims 31 and 32 have been added. Thus, claims 7, 17, 19 and 21-32 are pending and under active prosecution.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 7, 17, 19, and 21-30 as allegedly being anticipated by Szarka (U.S. 4,627,488; hereinafter "Szarka") for at least the following reasons.

Claims 7 and 30, as presently amended, require, among other things "...conveying the injected fluidic materials radially out of the inlet passage into a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart *longitudinal passages* defined in the tubular housing and into an annular chamber defined in the tubular housing that surrounds the inlet passage ..."

By contrast, the passages 762,790, illustrated in Fig. 5B, of Szarka are circumferentially spaced apart *radial passages* - and are not circumferentially spaced apart longitudinal passages.

Thus, Szarka does not disclose the invention of claims 7 and 30, as presently amended.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of independent claims 7 and 30 are respectfully requested.

Furthermore, for at least the same reasons, claims 17, 19, and 21-29, that depend from claim 7 are also not disclosed by Szarka.

In addition, claim 23 requires that "... the outlet passages are orthogonal to the inlet passage ..." By contrast in Szarka, the inlet passage 810 is parallel to the outlet passage that the cup seals, 774 and 776, are positioned in. Thus, for at least this additional reasons, Szarka does not disclose the invention of claim 23.

In addition, claim 24 requires "...conveying the injected fluidic materials into a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart longitudinal valve chambers fluidicly coupled to corresponding outlet passages that each include corresponding movable valve members ..." By contrast, in Szarka, the cup seals, 774 and 776, are positioned in an annular passage. Thus, the cup seals, 774 and 776, of Szarka do not provide a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart longitudinal valve chambers fluidicly coupled to corresponding outlet passages that each include corresponding movable valve members as required by claim 24. Thus, for at least this additional reasons, Szarka does not disclose the invention of claim 24.

In addition, claim 25 requires "... if the detected operating pressure of the injected fluidic materials exceeds a predetermined amount, then displacing the valve members positioned within the corresponding longitudinal valve chambers ..." By contrast, in Szarka, the cup seals, 774 and 776, are positioned in an annular passage. Thus, the cup seals, 774 and 776, of Szarka do not provide the function of, if the detected operating pressure of the injected fluidic materials exceeds a predetermined amount, then displacing the valve members positioned within the corresponding longitudinal valve chambers as required by claim 25. Thus, for at least this additional reasons, Szarka does not disclose the invention of claim 25.

In addition, claim 26 requires "...wherein the valve chambers are interleaved among the longitudinal passages ..." By contrast, in Szarka, the cup seals, 774 and 776, are positioned in an annular passage. Thus, the cup seals, 774 and 776, of Szarka do not provide the structure of wherein the valve chambers are interleaved

among the longitudinal passages as required by claim 26. Thus, for at least this additional reasons, Szarka does not disclose the invention of claim 26.

In addition, claim 29 requires "...wherein the outlet passages are orthogonal to the inlet passage; and further comprising: conveying the injected fluidic materials into a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart longitudinal valve chambers fluidicly coupled to corresponding outlet passages that each include corresponding movable valve members ..." By contrast, in Szarka, the cup seals, 774 and 776, are positioned in an annular outlet passage that is parallel to the inlet passage Thus, the cup seals, 774 and 776, of Szarka do not provide the structure of wherein the outlet passages are orthogonal to the inlet passage or conveying the injected fluidic materials into a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart longitudinal valve chambers fluidicly coupled to corresponding outlet passages that each include corresponding movable valve members as required by claim 29. Thus, for at least this additional reasons, Szarka does not disclose the invention of claim 29.

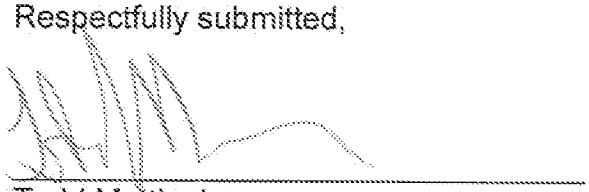
CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete Response to the Final Office Action mailed August 27, 2007. Applicants have made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of the application by submitting arguments in support of the patentability of claims 7, 17, 19, and 21-32. In view of the above, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 7, 17, 19, and 21-32 is respectfully requested.

As the three-month statutory period for reply expires on November 27, 2007, this Response is therefore considered timely filed and no fees are believed to be due. However, should the Commissioner deem any fees as being due, including any fees for any extensions of time, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit said fees from, or to credit any overpayments to, USPTO Deposit Account Number 50-3786, Reference No. 14147.105076.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at the number listed below if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Mattingly
Registration Number 40,298

Date: October __, 2007
King & Spalding LLP
1100 Louisiana Street, Ste. 4000
Houston, TX 77002-5213
Telephone: 713.751.3237
Facsimile: 713.751.3290
E-mail: tmattingly@kslaw.com
USPTO ID 59081